

Nestor

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COMMUNICATIONS

Past Conferences

The British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology hosted its Third Annual Conference in Edinburgh, December 7-9, 1989. The goal of the conference was to present a perspective on current research from early prehistory to Islamic times in the Near East. Papers of interest to *Nestor* readers included: Hans-Dieter Bienert, "'Skull cult' in the Near East from 10,000 to 5,000 B.C."; Olga Hadjianastasiou, "Naxos and the Cyclades in the Bronze Age: Recent Research"; Steve O. Held, "The Akrotiri rock-shelter site on Cyprus".

Future Conferences

An international conference entitled: "The Crisis Years: The 12th Century B.C., from the Danube to the Tigris" will be held at the Center for Old World Art and Archaeology, Brown University on May 16-19, 1990. The conference will examine this crucial century in world history. Its goals are 1) to integrate and synthesize archaeological and linguistic evidence from the many fields of research which bear on this catastrophic time; 2) to stimulate interdisciplinary discussion of the socio-economic, political and cultural milieu of this century; and 3) to define new paths for interdisciplinary investigation of the many problems of this period.

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The World Archaeological Congress invites all interested colleagues to attend the Second World Archaeological Congress in Cartagena, Colombia, from September 4-8, 1990. Papers are being organized around ten themes covering virtually every aspect of archaeology, with a central focus on the social context of archaeology. Submission deadlines for precirculated papers have been extended until June 1. The Colombian organizers confirm that the political situation has calmed dramatically. For more information please contact:

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Future Lectures

On April 11, 1990 at 7:45 p.m., the New York Aegean Bronze Age Colloquium will meet at the Institute of Fine Arts, One East 78th Street. At the meeting, Dr. Jan Driessen will speak on "An Early Destruction in the Mycenaean Palace of Knossos".

Forum

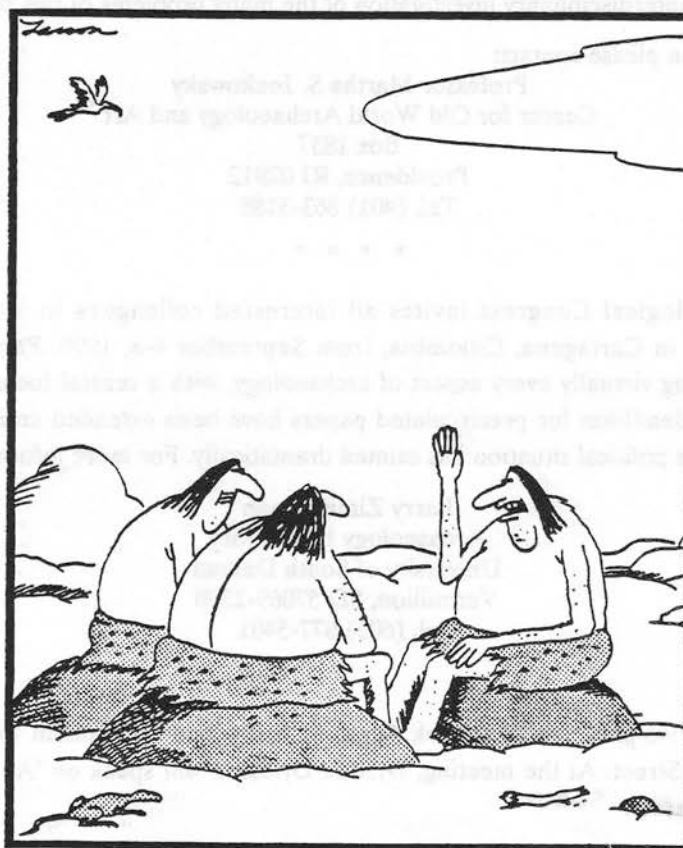
Heavy duty book review

Barbara Michaels, *The Sea King's Daughter*. Berkeley Books, New York. Paperback edition 1989. [ISBN 0-425-11306-X]. Michaels introduces the reader to "Aegean crime" on the island of Santorini with the volcano rumbling effectively in the background. "Don't call me Ariadne. That's not my name anymore." Thus the protagonist introduces herself. Bred in California, a life guard, she muses about the fall of the Minoans "I was familiar with the effects of wave action, so I could imagine what waves fifty feet high would do to the Cretan palaces." If it were that simple...

The tale that unfolds is intriguing, including, of course, boy and girl, but also the daughter and the father she never knew (a classical archaeologist!). It is all set on Santorini, reuniting participants in the Greek theater of WW II, - all villains. In the midst of that, our heroine is put to work, diving in a beautiful bay to help her father find the palace - or is it the sunken fleet of king Minos? As the tale unfolds, the author brings the figures to life and lets them act out their drama of revenge and greed, throwing in a rite-of-passage for the heroine - and doing it quite nicely. Her somewhat stereotypical characters take on a certain life of their own. As a result, the interweaving of archaeology, archaeological adventure, World War II history, greed, curiosity and human fallibility renders a nice tale. Maybe it is best enjoyed with an ouzo by your side, the last day of the dig, when archaeological reality has created the need for some drama. It is also good reading for a long flight. One mystery remains: What connection do the Ephesian amazon and the temple of Athena Nike on the cover have with Minoan Thera?

W. Rudolph

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"Sure it's true!... Cross my heart and hope to die, stick a sharp chunk of obsidian in my eye."

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